What is claimed is:

1.   A method for determining tempo in an input piece of music, comprising:

creating a compact representation of the input piece of music;

processing of the compact representation in a way that accentuates its tempo characteristics;

generating bins of data from the processed compact representation, reflective of the different correlation strengths at different time periods or frequencies; and

feeding the bins of data into a classification chain.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the compact representation of the input piece of music is created by taking the square root of the sum of the squares of blocks of 1024 samples.

3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the processing of the compact representation is done by first taking of a first order difference, a first half wave rectifying, applying median filter, subtracting a mean value, a second half wave rectifying, second taking of a first order difference, and a third half wave rectifying.

4.   The method of Claim 1, wherein 130 bins of data are generated, each bin being the correlation strength of the period defined by the bin number time 1/43.

5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the classification chain is built upon an existing database classified by humans.